

The Time is Now

Climate Change Newsletter

March 2012 - Issue 10



HSBC
The world's local bank



Statistics on solar energy

Solar heating panels - According to the National Renewable Energy Action Plans, European Solar Thermal will grow at a rate of 15% per annum, over the next 10 years. In June 2009, the European Parliament and Council adopted the Directive to promote the use of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES).

The EU is second to China in the use of solar thermals. In 2012, Malta placed 5th with the production of energy per capita. The top EU state was Cyprus.

The European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF) set its minimum target to produce solar heating equivalent to 5,600,000 tons of oil, by 2020. In 2005, the solar heating in the EU was equivalent to more than 686,000 tons of oil.

73 million tons of oil, would be the same as a row of lorries going around the world 1.5 times, this target although quite ambitious is still feasible.

Photovoltaic panels - In 2008, Spain built the largest photovoltaic power station in the world known as the Olmedilla Photovoltaic Park. The park uses more than 270,000 panels to generate 60 megawatts. It produces enough energy to power 40,000 homes. The park cost €384 million. In Malta photovoltaic panels are increasing and Malta placed 15th among the EU states in 2010, producing 4W/capita.



Wind Energy

Windmills have been used as early as 200 B.C. in Iran ... then known as Persia. By the 1930s the USSR and America were starting to use windmills to produce energy.

The first grid-connected utility to operate in the UK was built in 1951.

Between the mid-seventies and the mid-eighties the US government invested in industry to advance technology on the production of commercial wind turbines.

According to a report released by the European Wind Energy Association, in February 2011 there were 12,000 wind turbines in Europe. The European Union accounts for over 98% of that total.

In 2009 the World's wind power capacity grew to 158GW and the industry is now worth about €45 billion and employs half a million people.

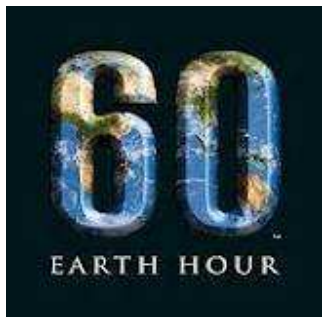
Unfortunately, although wind energy is a green and clean form of energy, it has its problems. While some say that wind farms are harmful because they can destroy fragile ecosystems and cause sleep problems, headaches and nervous disorders, to humans, others argue that these are sacrifices for the 'greater good' and people who are affected by this are dismissed as NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard) and accused of being selfish.





*If there is one thing I
can do...*

*... take part in
Earthhour and
encourage your family
and friends to join you.*



**Saturday, 31 March 2012
at 20:30
is Earthhour**

Visit the website at:
<http://www.earthhour.org/>
and get involved



Let's make the world a
better place.
It's up to us, let us make
the first step

The Sustainable Development Centre at Xrobb l-Ghagin

The centre uses wind turbines, photovoltaic panels and solar heating to generate heat and electricity. The centre is also equipped with sun pipes to allow the sun to light the centre during the day. There is also a biological waste tank that turns sewage waste to second class water which is then used to water the trees.

To book a tour or a school visit of the centre please contact: info@naturetrustmalta.org



Energy conservation is cheap

Installing solar and photovoltaic panels and wind turbines is costly and cannot be done by everyone. The Maltese government offers subsidies to go green, but homes still need to fork out the rest to instal their panels.

Panels will get cheaper as technology advances and new products are produced, but individuals will still have to do their part in reducing CO₂ emissions.

Reducing the amount of electricity and the amount of oil consumed is the effective and the most affordable way to reduce carbon emissions, pollution and dependance on foreign oil.

Some suggestions to reduce energy loss:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/consumertips/5602073/10-ways-to-use-less-energy.html>

<http://liambean.hubpages.com/hub/How-to-lower-your-electric-bill-Mines-is-sky-high>

Related links

Learn more about the negative aspects of wind energy: <http://www.wind-power-problems.org/>

Learn more about the history of wind power: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_wind_power

Eco-Code Competition

As in previous years, schools participating in the HSBC-ES Climate Initiative are invited to take part in the Eco-Code Competition. Information about participation follows:

Categories: Junior (5-11) and Senior (12-18). Schools can offer only one entry per category. Each entry can be submitted by one or two students. Entries submitted by more than two students will not be considered.

Size: a single sheet of A2 paper.

Orientation: Portrait

Identification: The following information should be written at the back of each submitted poster:

- Name of School
- Name of Student/s
- Category

Originality: All entries must be original work and must not infringe on the copyright or trademark of any third party. The use of logos on the front of the poster is not permitted. FEE becomes the owner of the entries on receipt and can use or reproduce them as it feels appropriate.

Closing date: Friday, 27th April 2012. Any entries received after that date will not be considered.

Prizes: Winners will be announced by the second week of May. Decisions of the Jury will be final. The winning students (in both categories), accompanied by their teachers, will be awarded a visit to Ireland!

Ideas to conserve energy

Please send in your ideas to conserve energy. The best 10 entries will be published in the May's newsletter to commemorate Environment Day.

Please send your suggestions to:
maryagius@hsbc.com

Include your name and school.